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The Brain Brief - Vol. 5 No. 2 September 2008

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Message from the Scientific Director

Dr. Rémi Quirion, OC, PhD, FRSC, CQ
Scientific Director

The changing of seasons brings with it a cycle of reflection. Summer is a time where many of us take a break from our hectic life, think about the busy year period us and about what lies ahead. Having enjoyed my own reflective time away from work, I am back with a renewed sense of purpose and energy. There is a lot of work to be done!

We need an intensified focus on health research in Canada. We need the funding to support it and a strategy to achieve both. For all of this, we need to work in partnership with our many stakeholders as only a coordinated approach will help us get there.

We have made important progress in the mental health field over the past year. The new Mental Health Commission of Canada has shed a bright light on the inadequacies of our health care system and has offered hope for change. The media is helping us to draw the issues to the attention of the general public. One important example is a special report published in recent months by the Globe and Mail - Breakdown: Canada's Mental Health Crisis. Breakdown documents the enormous, unaddressed cost of mental illness to Canadian individuals, families and society. The report featured stories on a number of conditions such as anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and addictions, as well an editorial on stigma. The report also included a number of on-line discussions in which I was pleased to participate. The Globe and Mail series closed with a search for solutions and offers a 12-step program for Canada, including a recommendation to double the amount Canada spends on research. Building on the "Face it. Fund it. Fix it" theme of the Special Report, came the announcement of a new national charity, tentatively called Mind and Brain Canada.

The new foundation is championed by the Honourable Michael Kirby in an effort to make funding and public awareness of mental health issues equal to cancer and heart disease.

I completely concur with Mr. Kirby's notion but also feel strongly that there is a need for increased funding in all areas of health research. CIHR, the Institutes and our stakeholders need to work together towards this goal. I know that our new CIHR President Alain Beaudet will provide important leadership and renewed momentum. Alain is well known to the neuroscience community in Canada and worldwide, and to the entire health research community in Quebec. He is strongly committed to partnerships, both nationally and internationally. This shared commitment will lead to new and exciting collaborations and intensify our efforts. I look forward to working with Alain and our partners.

Funding Opportunities

Co-Morbidity of Brain Disorders and Other Health Problems: Emerging Team Grant

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to further strengthen research on co-morbid (co-occurring or concurrent) disorders associated with mental illness, addiction, brain and nerve disorders, and sensory disorders by fostering multidisciplinary collaborations. In order to maximize the likelihood of the research evidence being put into practice, researchers will be required to partner with a user group in all phases of the research (e.g. clinical scientists, health administrators, decision makers, consumer groups, not-for-profit organizations, etc.) Background information can be found in the report of the co-morbidity workshop held by INMHA in September 2005. Partners on the RFA include the CIHR Institute of Aging, the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (HIV-AIDS Research Initiative), the Rx&D Health Research Foundation, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO, and the Alzheimer Society Canada. The funding tool is Emerging Teams, with a maximum support of $300,000 per year for 5 years. The deadline for Letters of Intent is October 15th 2008. Full applications, for those who are successful at the LOI stage, will be due May 1, 2009. For further details, please see the co-morbidity funding opportunity.

Fall 2008 Priority Announcements: Huntington's Disease

Three new funding opportunities in the area of basic biomedical research in Huntington's Disease have recently been announced on
the CIHR website:

- Doctoral Award
- Fellowship
- Operating Grant Prize

Please see the CIHR funding opportunities database for details.

Meeting, Planning and Dissemination Grant

CIHR Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grants are intended to provide support for meetings, planning and/or dissemination activities consistent with the mandate of CIHR and relevant to CIHR Institutes, Initiatives or Branches. INMHA support will normally consist of $5,000 for a workshop or a symposium and $10,000 for a conference held in Canada. During the ResearchNet e-Submission process, applicants can apply to up to three separate Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grant funding opportunities. Funding for successful applications may be granted through a single funding opportunity or through a combination of funding opportunities. However, the total of all Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grants received from CIHR cannot exceed $25,000. For more information please see the complete list of funding opportunities and detailed eligibility criteria. Related questions should be addressed to Richard Briere at Richard.briere@douglas.mcgill.ca

Brain Star Award - New Application Process: Institute Community Support Grants and Awards

The INMHA Brain Star Award is now being administered under the recently announced CIHR ICS Program. The Brain Star Award goes to emerging scientists still enrolled in their studies who have published their research and research findings as first author in prominent scientific journals. The award is given every two weeks and consists of a cash prize of $1,000. For questions on the Award and the new submission process, please
contact Richard Brière at richard.briere@douglas.mcgill.ca.

FRSQ-INMHA Albert J. Aguayo Fellowship

This fellowship, to be awarded through the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), was announced last year and marks Dr. Aguayo's outstanding contribution to neuroscience in Quebec, Canada and the world. The award will enable students from developing countries to spend a three month term in a Quebec laboratory or research centre. The first deadline for applications has been set for December 1, 2008 and the process will open in early November. Detailed application guidelines will be posted on the IBRO and FRSQ websites.

Joint Program Announcements with US National Institutes of Health (NIH):

- Brain Disorders in the Developing World: Research Across the Life-Span (BRAIN)

  This initiative led by the Fogarty International Centre (FIC) was renewed in 2008 and is active until 2010. For further information, please check the above program description on the FIC website with links to the R21 and R01 Program Announcements.

- Biology of Manual Therapies

  This initiative is led by the National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and includes four additional NIH partners and the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA). The PA is active until 2009, soliciting grants on the regular NIH grant cycle timeline with three competitions per year.

NSF/NIH Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience Program (CRCNS)

INMHA may consider co-funding of Canadian proposals through a partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSC) and NIH. CRCNS will support innovative interdisciplinary collaborative research to make significant advances in the understanding of nervous system function, mechanisms underlying nervous system disorders, and computational strategies used by the nervous system. Two classes of proposals will be considered:

- Research proposals describing new collaborative research projects, and
- Data sharing proposals to enable sharing of data and other resources.

The next deadline for proposals is October 30, 2008.

***For further information on international initiatives, please contact Astrid Eberhart at astrid eberhart@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Funding Announcements

CIHR Operating Grant Program - Grants Funded Through INMHA Priority Announcement:

- Gail Eskes (Dalhousie University): *Mechanisms of Rehabilitation and Recovery in Visuo-Spatial Neglect*
- Michael Silverman (Simon Fraser University: *Dense-core vesicle trafficking in cultured hippocampal neurons*

Emerging Team Grant: Knowledge Translation in Mental Health and Addiction

The competition overview for this RFA is available on the CIHR funding decisions page. The following grants will be supported by CIHR-INMHA, the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (CIHR-IHDCYH), the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health and the Mental Health Commission of Canada:

- Melanie Barwick, Howard Schachter and team (University of Toronto): *CIHR Emerging Team in Knowledge Translation for Child and Youth Mental Health*
- Alison Niccols, Maureen Dobbins, Wendy Sword and team (McMaster University). *Optimizing the health of women with substance use issues and their children*
- John Walker (University of Manitoba), David Phipps (York University), Linda Rose-Krasnor (Brock University, Richard Swinson (McMaster University), and team: *Pathways to Mental Health Treatment: Mobilizing knowledge to inform consumer decision-making, advocacy, and access*

Japan-Canada Joint Health Research Program

The full results of CIHR's fifth joint competition with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science are

available on CIHR's funding decisions page. In total, five joint grants were made (out of 13 applications) including the following three supported by CIHR-INMHA:

- Guy Rouleau (University of Montreal), Japanese collaborator: Shoji Tsuji (University of Tokyo):*CanJaSI: The Canada-Japan Synapse-to-Disease Initiative*
- Alan Evans (McGill University), Japanese collaborator: Jorge Riera (Tohoku University): *The neuroarchitectonic determinants of EEG recordings*
- John MacDonald (Toronto), Japanese collaborator: Yasuo Mori (Kyoto University): *Targeting transient receptor potential channel cell death cascades* (co-funded by CIHR Institute of Aging)

Germany-Finland-Canada Neuroethics Initiative

In total, five collaborative projects will be supported under this initiative including four with a Canadian component.
The following grants are funded by CIHR-INMHA and the CIHR Ethics Office. The German and Finnish Research teams are supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education (BMBF) and the Academy of Finland, respectively.

- Timothy Caulfield (University of Alberta), German PIs: Henrik Walter, Tade Spranger (University of Bonn), Finnish PI: Tuija Takala (University of Helsinki): *Neuroethics initiative: NeuroSCAN NeuroScienceAndNorms: Ethical and legal aspects of norms in neuroimaging*
- Elena Moro, Mateusz Zurowski (University of Toronto), German PI: Christiane Woopen (University of Cologne): *Ethical, legal and social aspect of deep brain stimulation. Health, quality of life and personal identity*
- Eric Racine (McGill University), German PI: Ralf Jox (University Hospital Munich), Finnish PI: Juha Raikka (University of Turku)*Neuroethics and chronic disorders of consciousness: Investigating new challenges for health care decision making in the context of neuroscience innovation*
- Peter Reiner (University of British Columbia), German PI: Thomas Metzinger (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz): *Normality, normalization and enhancement in the neurosciences: Ethical, sociocultural and neuropsychiatric aspects of cognitive enhancement*

NSF/NIH Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience Program (CRCNS)

The following two grants will be jointly supported by CIHR-INMHA and NSF (see Funding Opportunities section for information on initiative):

- David Munoz (Queen's University), US collaborator: Laurent Itti (University of Southern California): *Neural Basis of Active Perception in Neural Environment*
- Dinesh Pai (University of British Columbia), US collaborators: Simon Giszter (Drexel University) and Kiisa Nishikawa (University of Northern Arizona): *Neural and Mechanical Bases of Motor Primitives in Voluntary Frog Behavior*

2008 Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research

Dr. Kenneth Rose at Queen's University has been selected as the winner of the 2008 Barbara Turnbull Award. Dr. Rose had the highest ranked relevant application from the September 2007 and March 2008 CIHR Operating Grants competitions: *Input-output properties of neck motoneurons: The role of dendritic structure.*

The Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research is presented every year to the researcher with the highest ranked spinal cord research application in CIHR's open competitions. The winner receives a $50,000 top-up to his/her CIHR grant, to be used at his/her discretion to advance spinal cord research. CIHR-INMHA's partners on this special award are the Barbara Turnbull Foundation for Spinal Cord Research, and NeuroScience Canada Foundation.

Public Health Chair in Workplace Mental Health

CIHR-INMHA is proud to be partnering with the Institute of Population and Public Health on a new Chair in Public Health awarded to Dr. Carolyn Dewa from the University of Toronto. Dr. Dewa's research on mental

health in the workplace will focus on applied research on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention workplace interventions. Although mental disorders are emerging as one of the leading causes of disability globally, little is known about effective interventions for affected workers, making it almost impossible to develop evidence-based policies and workplace programs for prevention and return to work. Dr. Dewa's research will move the field forward by enhancing our understanding of prevention interventions based on research evidence.

This Chair is one of fourteen new Chairs intended to support high quality and focused programs of policy and program intervention research of national relevance to public health. The Chairs were announced by Health Minister Tony Clement on May 7 as part of a national research funding announcement. See the complete results of the Applied Public Health Chairs, and the June 3rd press release posted on the CIHR website.

Meetings and Events

CIHR Regenerative Medicine and Nanomedicine Initiative (RMNI) sponsored meetings:

Canadian Workshop on Multidisciplinary Research on Nanotechnology: Gaps, Opportunities and Priorities

This workshop was held in Edmonton Alberta on January 22-24, 2008, in collaboration with other funding agencies and departments of the Canadian Government. The workshop identified key gaps and research needs in nanotechnology, particularly as they relate to NE3LS issues (i.e. nanotechnology ethical, environmental, economic, legal and social issues - including the humanities), environmental and health impacts and risks, and the regulatory mechanisms needed to address them. The draft summary of the workshop is posted on the CIHR website. The final summary will be included as part of the full report, which is currently being finalized and will be posted as soon as it is complete. RMNI partnered with CIHR's Knowledge Translation branch on two June 2008 funding opportunities related to the themes of this workshop - Knowledge to Action Grants and Knowledge Synthesis Grants (funding decisions expected April 1, 2009).

NanoForum Canada 2008

This year, NanoForum and the Nanomedicine workshop were combined into one schedule on May 28-30, 2008, in Edmonton, Alberta. The workshop included themed presentation sessions on material science, nano-scale applications (including biomedical), and nano implications for drug delivery. Please see the NanoForum website for more information.

- For all inquiries about RMNI and its activities, please contact Eric Marcotte, Associate Director (eric.marcotte@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) or Yumna Kanda, Project Officer (yumna.kanda@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

Award Ceremony for 2007 Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research

The 2007 Barbara Turnbull Award ceremony was held at the University of Alberta on April 2, 2008. The winner was Dr. Richard Stein, who was recognized along with his co-PI Dr. Vivian Mushahwar. The award was presented by Rémi Quirion and Barbara Turnbull.

Drs. Stein and Mushahwar were honored for their research on an implantable microwire device that will improve on current systems that enable people with incomplete spinal cord injuries to walk. The new device, which will be tested in animals, will include microwires which will stimulate the spinal cord to produce a walking motion in the ankle, knee and hip joints. The device will also record sensory feedback coming from these areas, which will feed back in to inform the spinal cord stimulation pattern. This feedback aspect is unique and will be very important in dealing with real-world situations such as obstacles or muscle fatigue.

The work of Dr. Stein is an excellent example of how research can be put into action to help improve the lives of those who live with a spinal cord injury. Two patients were present at the ceremony to demonstrate how previous research has made a dramatic improvement in their mobility. One individual with severe drop foot is able to walk with the assistance of a cane and a patented device called a WalkAide. Another individual with no motor function below his waist, is able take steps with the help of a specialized walker and electric stimulator, which provide him with sufficient mobility to be an active grain farmer. Additional information on the ceremony can be found on the University of Alberta website.

Second Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

Building on last year's success, the Canadian Association of Neuroscience (CAN-ACN) and CIHR-INMHA joined forces again to host the Second Canadian Neuroscience Meeting held in Montreal on May 25-28, 2008. Final registration was 1,100, surpassing expectations and setting an exciting path for future Canadian Neuroscience meetings.

The highlight of the scientific program for CIHR-INMHA was the session featuring three of the Institute's highly talented Brain Star Awardees. Alain Simard, currently at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona presented his work on Alzheimer's Disease, focused on bone-marrow-derived microglia restriction on amyloid-beta deposition. Dale Langford at McGill University talked about "the secret life of mice", a project on social modulation (and facial expressions) of pain in the mouse. Roger Thompson at the University of British Columbia, presented on excitotoxic and synaptic activation of pannexin-1 hemichannels. The Brain Star presentations were also extremely popular last year and at previous CIHR-INMHA Annual Meetings. We hope that the promising young Canadian neuroscientists honored by the Brain Star program will continue to play an important role in future Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meetings.

For more information on this year's meeting and the 2009 Canadian Neuroscience Meeting in Vancouver, please see the CAN-ACN website (Summer 2008 Newsletter).

2008 International Brain Bee

CAN-ACN and CIHR-INMHA were delighted to co-host the 2008 International Brain Bee (IBB) in conjunction with the Canadian Neuroscience Meeting in Montreal on May 26, 2008. The event followed the first CIHR-sponsored Canadian National Brain Bee (CCNBB) competition held at McMaster University earlier that month.

The Brain Bee is a competition for high school students, designed to stimulate interest and excitement about brain research in the community and to attract bright young minds to consider a career in the field of brain research. For the first time in 2008, the Brain Bee was organized as a 3-tiered (regional, national, and international) series of competitions held across the world. The inaugural 2008 ac competitors were high school students from all across Canada who had won their regional Brain Bee competitions. The Canadian title was won by Isdin Oke from Guelph, Ontario. In addition to a trophy, a cash prize and his trip to Montreal to represent Canada at the IBB, Isdin was awarded an internship to work in a neuroscience laboratory, co-sponsored by The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) and CIHR-INMHA. For information on the CCNBB, photos and a video clip of the competition, please visit the Brain Bee website.

At the IBB competition in Montreal, Isdin joined other national champions from Australia (Quinn McGennisken), India (Krithi Sundaram) and the US (Elena Perry). Elena took home the international title, along with the top trophy and the top cash prize of $3,000 (USD). A great article on the IBB appeared in the Montreal Gazette, recounting Elena's and Krithi's taxi ride to the Montreal Neurological Institute for the neuroanatomy test:

CCNBB Chair, Dr. Judith Shedden, and her colleagues at McMaster University, have already begun planning for the 2009 Canadian national competition. The organizing team is looking to expand the network of regional Brain Bees in Canada. If interested, please contact Judith Shedden (shedden@mcmaster.ca).
Detailed info on the Brain Bee can be found at IBB website.

2008 Canadian IBRO Neuroscience School

The other key event held in conjunction with this year's Canadian Neuroscience Meeting in Montreal was the second Canadian IBRO Neuroscience School. Following the successful model of last year's school in Toronto, the 2008 initiative brought fourteen students from Africa and Latin America to Canada to attend the CAN-ACN/CIHR-INMHA joint meeting, followed by a specialized one-week course in Pain.

The school was sponsored by IBRO, SfN, FRSQ, McGill University Centre for Research on Pain, Montreal Neurological Institute, University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain, AstraZeneca R&D Montreal, Pfizer Canada, CAN-ACN, CIHR Institute of Cancer Research, CIHR-IHDCYH and CIHR-INMHA.

A summary of the School with several photos is posted on the IBRO website.

The Canadian School Organizing Committee has already submitted a proposal to IBRO for a Third Canadian School to take place in Vancouver next year at the time of the Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting. This is viewed as an effort towards the strengthening of Canada's international role in neuroscience training.

Expression, Communication and Dementia & Mindscapes 2008

CIHR-INMHA was proud to co-host this multi-disciplinary event of art and sciences, held at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver on May 30-31, 2008. Organized by the Society for Arts and Dementia Care, the Creative Expression, Communication and Dementia Conference was combined with Mindscapes 2008, an umbrella event showcasing an exhibition of artwork produced by seniors with dementia. Rémi Quirion delivered the conference opening address. A summary of the event is available at the CECD website.

In the past, Mindscapes has held art exhibitions such as Les Impatients, a showing of outsider art produced by people with psychiatric problems, titled specifically to reject the label of "patients" and embrace the title "impatients" as people anxious to create. Mindscapes honors a means of spontaneous expression that is designed to stir the emotions, as artistic expression offers an outlet to people of all ages and all conditions.

The Society for the Arts in Dementia Care is built on the premise that people living with dementia have the right to dignity, to be heard and to be valued. The Society provides an interdisciplinary forum for creative expression in dementia care, bringing together academic research and practical knowledge through collaboration between the medical profession and the creative arts.

NIH-CIHR Workshop: Meditation for Health Purposes

This joint NIH-CIHR workshop was held in Bethesda, Maryland, on July 8-9, 2008. Organizational leadership was provided by the National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). The meeting was co-sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences (OBSSR), CIHR-INMHA and the CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health. The purpose of the workshop was to articulate potential goals and directions for research on the mechanisms and efficacy of meditation practices for a variety of health concerns. Experts from a range of disciplines and with a wide range of involvement in the field of meditation research were asked to critically examine the current state of science on meditation for health, and to identify existing or potential intersections and contributions from their fields to further this area of science. This group developed a set of critical questions and approaches that could better inform future research in this area.

Canadian workshop participants included Dr. Zindel Segal at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto and Dr. Patrick McGrath at Dalhousie University. The executive summary of the workshop is available on the NCCAM website.

Special News and Initiatives

Minister of Industry Accepts S&T Strategy's Sub-priorities Recommended by the Science, Technology and Innovation Council

On September 2, The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry, accepted recommendations made by the Science, Technology and Innovation Council (STIC) on sub-priorities within the four research priority areas announced in the Government of Canada's 2007 Science and Technology (S&T) Strategy.

Canada's 2007 S&T Strategy identified four research priorities in areas where Canada can leverage research strengths to achieve a competitive advantage: environmental science and technologies; natural resources and energy; health and related life sciences and technologies; and information and communications technologies. To give definition to these four priority areas, STIC identified sub-priorities in areas of strategic importance to Canada. The sub-priorities recommended by STIC will assist research agencies in the design and implementation of research support programs in specific areas. The S&T priority on health and related life sciences and technologies sub-priorities are: regenerative medicine; neuroscience; health in an aging population; biomedical engineering and medical technologies. For further information, please see the press release.

Canada Post Foundation for Mental Illness and Mental Health

In June, Moya Greene, President of Canada Post, announced the establishment of the Canada Post Foundation for Mental Illness and Mental Health. The Foundation, which will be administered by an independent board of experts in the area of mental health, will receive funds raised by Canada Post and its employees, as well as by others, and direct the money to where it will do the most good for those directly affected by mental illness. The Foundation's aim is to raise awareness of the effect mental illness has on the lives of Canadians and work to eliminate the stigma that surrounds it, while supporting patients and their families dealing with mental illness.

As a first step in its fundraising efforts, Canada Post also announced a new commemorative PERMANENT™ stamp supporting Mental Health. The stamp will carry a 10-cent donation, with that entire amount being directed to the Canada Post Foundation for Mental Health. The stamp will be issued on October 6, 2008 to coincide with Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW), sponsored by Canada Post.

The new Canada Post Foundation will work collaboratively with other Foundations, in particular the Foundation announced by the Honourable Michael Kirby, to achieve its goals. For more information please see the full press release.

Going live on September 24, 2008: Neuroscience Education Resources Virtual Encycloportal!

Visit the Society for Neuroscience's new Web site -NERVE-Neuroscience Education Resources Virtual Encycloportal. This dynamic, new online gateway offers a wide range of K-12th grade resources, searchable by grade level and topic, including lesson plans, multimedia presentations, movies, games, and more. The materials you find on NERVE, SfN's public education portal, will equip you for your next public outreach activity!

Upcoming Events

Mental Illness Awareness Week

October 5-11, 2008

Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) is an annual national public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness. The week was established in 1992 by the Canadian Psychiatric Association, and is now coordinated by the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) in cooperation with all its member organizations and many other supporters across Canada.

Campaign elements include: a grassroots public education initiative; a nationally-distributed poster and bookmark series; the 5th Annual Champions of Mental Health Awards luncheon in Ottawa and an education initiative with federal Members of Parliament, both in their home ridings and on Parliament Hill. For further information please visit the MIAW website.

Consensus Development Conferenceon Depression in Adults: How to Improve Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment

Calgary, Alberta, October 15-17, 2008

The Honourable Michael Kirby, Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, will lead a distinguished jury of citizens and experts to develop practical recommendations on how to improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of depression in adults. Expert Panel Chair Dr. Scott Patten, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Calgary, will lead a panel of experts in presenting available evidence on depression in adults. Further information is available at the Institute of Health Economics website.

Neuroscience 2008

Washington, DC, November 15-19, 2008

CIHR-INMHA will again exhibit at this year's SfN Annual Meeting. **Please visit us at booth # 3314** to learn about the Institute's current activities and funding initiatives.

This year's History of Neuroscience Lecture will be delivered by Brenda Milner (McGill University) on November 18: "Reflecting on the Field of Brain and Memory".

The CAN-ACN social will be held on Monday, November 17, 2008, 6:30-8:30 pm at the JW Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom IV.

CIHR-INMHA News

Rémi Quirion Receives 2008 Anne & Neil McArthur Research Award

The Anne & Neil McArthur Research Award, presented annually by the St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation in Hamilton, recognizes outstanding Canadian researchers whose work has received international recognition. The award is funded by an endowment created by Anne and the late Neil McArthur, two long-time supporters of research, education and healthcare across the community and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. The award presentation took place at the annual award dinner in Hamilton on April 17, 2008.

Institute Advisory Board Meetings

The 29th Institute Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held at the CIHR corporate offices in Ottawa on February 15 and 16, 2008. Special guests at the meeting included Dr. Krystyna Miedzybrodzka, NSERC Director Research Partnership Program and Doug Beirness, Manager, Research and Policy, Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse (CCSA). The meeting also included updates from CIHR corporate staff on the development on the second CIHR strategic plan, Blueprint. The University of Ottawa organized a "Meet the Community Event" at the Faculty of Medicine.

Also in February, CIHR held a meeting for NGO-VHO representatives on Institute Advisory Boards to discuss their roles and share cross-institute issues.

A short IAB meeting was held during the CAN-INMHA Annual Meeting in Montreal on May 27. The main item for discussion was the new federal budget and its implications for CIHR and INMHA. The IAB also met by teleconference on August 21 to hear Focus Group and Institute updates.

Comings and Goings

Two CIHR-INMHA Institute Advisory Board (IAB) members completed their term in September 2008: Dr. Doug Zochodne and Dr. Yves De Koninck. In addition, there were two resignations: Dr. Elizabeth Dickson for health reasons and Freda Miller due to her election as Secretary for SfN. Newly appointed members are: Dr. Valerie Verge at the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Jaideep Bains at the University of Calgary and Dr. Bill Corrigal, contractor for NIDA.Their profiles are available on the IAB biographies page.

Congratulations...

...to former IAB member Dr. Marty Steinbach at York University for receiving the 2009 ARVO Kupfer Award. Presented by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Kupfer Award is presented annually to those who have demonstrated distinguished public service on behalf of eye and vision research. Dr. Steinbach is honored for his advocacy, leadership and as a champion of research in vision and ophthalmology in Canada.

We welcome submissions such as upcoming news-worthy research publications or other news, external funding opportunities or special initiatives that may be of interest to our readers. Please forward information to Astrid Eberhart at astrid.eberhart@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.